

Regular expressions appear in three areas of Calc's functionality, as follows:

- Searching with the Find and Replace dialog, accessed by selecting **Edit > Find and Replace** on the Menu bar, by clicking the **Find and Replace** icon on the Find toolbar, or by pressing *Ctrl+H*. See Chapter 2, Entering, Editing, and Formatting Data for more information.
- Filtering using the Standard Filter and Advanced Filter dialogs, accessed by selecting **Data > More Filters > Standard Filter** and **Data > More Filters > Advanced Filter**. See Chapter 2, Entering, Editing, and Formatting Data for more information.
- Functions. Many of Calc's functions can use regular expressions in search criteria. However these only operate correctly if the **Tools > Options > LibreOffice Calc > Calculate > Formulas wildcards > Enable regular expressions in formulas** option has been checked. We also recommend that you enable the **Tools > Options > LibreOffice Calc > Calculate > General Calculations > Search criteria = and <> must apply to whole cells** option so that search criteria in formulas must match the whole of the cell contents. See Chapter 7, Using Formulas and Functions for more information.

To illustrate the use of regular expressions we can use a sales data spreadsheet, the first few rows of which are shown in Figure 24.

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Date	Sales Value	Category	Region	Employee
2	02/01/08	\$410	Tennis	North	Kurt
3	02/01/08	\$1,508	Golf	East	Bridget
4	02/01/08	\$2,340	Sailing	South	Brigid
5	03/01/08	\$4,872	Tennis	East	Brigitte
6	06/01/08	\$3,821	Tennis	South	Fritz
7	06/01/08	\$2,623	Tennis	East	Fritz
8	07/01/08	\$3,739	Golf	South	Fritz
9	08/01/08	\$4,195	Golf	West	Brigid
10	10/01/08	\$2,023	Golf	East	Bridget
11	14/01/08	\$2,804	Tennis	West	Bridget
12	15/01/08	\$1,858	Tennis	North	Kurt
13	15/01/08	\$579	Sailing	West	Brigid
14	17/01/08	\$4,842	Golf	North	Brigid
15	17/01/08	\$2,827	Tennis	East	Bridget

Figure 24: Spreadsheet data for example regular expressions

Unfortunately the data entry clerks do not know the sales personnel well and so the spreadsheet contains a number of misspellings of Brigitte's name. On inspecting the data, we notice that if we could find all cells containing a string that begins with the characters "Bri" and then replace the entire contents of each such cell with the string "Brigitte", then the data in the spreadsheet would be corrected. This can be achieved easily with a simple regular expression, as follows:

- 1) Select **Edit > Find and Replace** on the Menu bar. Calc opens the Find and Replace dialog (Figure 25).